



COCA Update

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)
CDC Emergency Communication System

July 5, 2011

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **July 18**.

This issue contains information from **June 20-July 5** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

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Topics and Highlights

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COCA News and Announcements

New: Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar

Title: Applying Cultural Competency to Emergency Risk Communication

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2011

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

Participate by Phone: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

Register for this webinar:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pf7m85dab&oeidk=a07e48vvc53f839dbf>

Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately impacted by disasters, and disparities that existed prior to the event are exacerbated following the event. Employing a culturally and linguistically appropriate emergency risk communication framework in the context of a disaster can aid in the reduction of health disparities associated with disaster response and recovery. This COCA webinar will illustrate the importance of cultural competency in the everyday communication activities between clinicians and patients, and discuss culturally competent emergency risk communication strategies that clinicians can use during any crisis. **CE Credits are being offered with this activity!**

CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook Page

CDC's Facebook page for Health Partners provides real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners about how to prepare and respond to public health emergencies and disasters. Become a fan today! "Like" the page to receive updates, participate in future conversations, and more.

<http://www.facebook.com/CDCHealthPartnersOutreach>

COCA Calls/Webinars Available Online – CE Credit Available

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available on the COCA Web site. Free CE credit/contact hours (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, and CECH) are available for most COCA calls.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>

COCA Home Page: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca>

CDC News and Announcements

Upcoming Crisis and Emergency-Risk Communication (CERC) Training Course (CDC)

CDC is sponsoring a CERC course July 13 – 14, 2011 at the UIC MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice, School of Public Health in Chicago, Illinois. CDC's CERC course is a free interactive course that gives participants essential knowledge and tools to navigate the realities of communicating to the public, media, partners and stakeholders during a public health emergency.

For additional information on upcoming CERC training courses visit: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/cerc/>

CDC Public Health Matters Blog: When Preparedness Hits Home - June 29 (CDC)

Getting people to think about an emergency before it happens is not always easy. Unfortunately, it usually takes a disaster for people to realize the importance of being prepared. Read this and other blogs related to preparing for and responding to a public health emergency.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2011/06/when-preparedness-hits-home/>

Science Clips - June 27 (CDC)

This week's top scientific articles, selected on the basis of potential for population impact and practical implementation, include: ***Protecting workers in large-scale emergency responses: NIOSH experience in the Deepwater Horizon response*** and ***Reproductive health assessment after disaster: introduction to the RHAD toolkit***.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/scioclips/issues/>

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Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)

EID is prepared by the CDC. [EID Home Page](#)

Vol 17, Number 7 – July 2011 - Highlights in this issue include:

- [Understanding the Cholera Epidemic, Haiti](#)
- [Multidrug-Resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Southwestern Colombia](#)

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR weekly reports and publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>.

July 1, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 25 [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [Update on Vaccine-Derived Polioviruses --- Worldwide, July 2009--March 2011](#)
- [Notes from the Field : Multiple Cases of Measles After Exposure During Air Travel --- Australia and New Zealand, January 2011](#)
- [Errata: Vol. 60, No. 21](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

June 24, 2011 / Vol. 60 / No. 24 [Download .pdf of this Issue](#)

- [National HIV Testing Day --- June 27, 2011](#)
- [Results of the Expanded HIV Testing Initiative --- 25 Jurisdictions, United States, 2007--2010](#)
- [Ten Great Public Health Achievements --- Worldwide, 2001--2010](#)
- [Notifiable Diseases and Mortality Tables](#)

MMWR Recommendations and Reports (Current volume)

The MMWR Recommendations and Reports contain in-depth articles that relay policy statements for prevention and treatment on all areas in CDC's scope of responsibility (e.g., recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices).

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_rr/rr_cvol.html

MMWR Surveillance Summaries (Current volume)

The CDC Surveillance Summaries provide a means for CDC programs to disseminate surveillance findings, permitting detailed interpretation of trends and patterns based on those findings.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_ss/ss_cvol.html

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Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Health and Safety Concerns for Natural Disasters and Severe Weather (CDC)

"Information for Specific Groups" on this page provides guidance for human and veterinary response workers, volunteers, and evacuation center personnel about illnesses, injuries, carbon monoxide poisoning, animals and insects, food, water, cleanup, mold, environmental concerns, mental effects of disasters, and other consequences of these events.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/>

Hurricane Information for Health Care Professionals (CDC)

Clinical guidance for Carbon Monoxide poisoning and environmental health and toxicology, infection control, and reopening healthcare facilities are among the features on this page.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hcp.asp>

Tornado Cleanup and Response Web Page Features Preventive Measures for Occupational Hazards (CDC)

This page includes CDC immunization recommendations for disaster responders, health recommendations for relief workers, and interim assessment tools for occupational safety and health in various healthcare settings, as well as guidance for hazards and disaster site management.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/tornado.html>

Guidance on Microbial Contamination in Previously Flooded Outdoor Areas (CDC)

Bacterial and viral microbial contamination of flood waters can cause great concern for use of previously flooded outdoor areas; harmful organisms can persist in the environment up to 6 months. Risk assessment of such conditions is discussed.

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Guidance_Flooding.htm

Guidelines for Fire Service Operations in a Hurricane Response (CDC)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) provides the following guidelines for preventing injury, illness, and death among fire fighters during responses to hurricanes, floods, and other large scale natural disasters.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/ff-flood.html>

Wildfires (CDC)

The Wildfires page includes links to guidance for responders, evacuation center personnel, veterinary evacuation centers, and relevant health care topics.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/>

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Weekly Flu View – July 1 (CDC)

During week 25, 6.6% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 25.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Seasonal Flu: International Situation Update – June 29 (CDC)

This report is a summary of key influenza-related updates created from regional World Health Organization (WHO) reports, country reports, CDC field staff updates, and other sources. Updates are listed by region.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm>

UPDATED: Questions and Answers about Seasonal Flu Vaccine - July 1 (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/flu vaccine.htm>

Questions and Answers from past flu seasons (2006 -2010) – July 1 (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pastseasons/>

UPDATED: Fluzone High-Dose Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Questions and Answers – June 27 (CDC)

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/qa_fluzone.htm

UPDATED: National Influenza Vaccination Week – June 23 (CDC)

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) 2011-2012 is scheduled for December 4 -10, 2011.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/NIVW/index.htm>

CDC Health Advisory: High Number of Reported Measles Cases in the U.S. in 2011—Linked to Outbreaks Abroad – June 22 (CDC)

CDC's Health Alert Network (HAN) distributed a Health Advisory on June 22. This advisory provides information on measles cases in the United States January 1 - June 10, 2011. Most cases were associated with importations from measles-endemic countries.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00323.asp>

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Travelers' Health

Outbreak Updates for International Cruise Ships – July 5 (CDC)

Cruise ships participating in the Vessel Sanitation Program are required to report the total number of gastrointestinal (GI) illness cases (including zero cases) evaluated by the medical staff before the ship arrives at a U.S. port, when sailing from a foreign port.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/vsp/surv/GIlist.htm>

Outbreak Notice: Polio Outbreak in Tajikistan, Cases in Russia, Risk of Spread to other Central Asian Countries - June 30 (CDC)

The Tajikistan Ministry of Health continues to respond to an outbreak of poliovirus imported from India. The outbreak was confirmed on April 21, 2010, by the World Health Organization (WHO). It represents the first importation of polio into the WHO European Region since it was certified polio-free in 2002.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/polio-tajikistan-russia-central-asia.htm>

Outbreak Notice: Shiga toxin-producing E. coli O104:H4 infections in Germany - June 23 (CDC)

German health authorities have reported an outbreak of Escherichia coli O104:H4, a Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) bacteria) in Germany since May 1, 2011 that has resulted in a severe illness called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) in 823 patients. This strain of E. coli causes an illness similar to infection with E. coli O157:H7.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/2011-germany-europe-e-coli.htm>

Current Travel Warnings – June 22 (US Department of State)

Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country, or when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

- **Israel, the West Bank and Gaza (06/22/2011)** - U.S. citizens are warned of the risks of traveling to Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and about threats to themselves and to U.S. interests in those locations. The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to remain mindful of security factors

when planning travel to Israel and the West Bank and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip.
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5511.html

- **Sudan (06/22/2011)** - U.S. citizens are warned of the risks of traveling to Sudan. The Department of State recommends U.S. citizens avoid all travel to the Darfur region of Sudan, and avoid travel to the border areas between the northern and southern regions of Sudan, particularly the states of Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bar el Ghazai, Southern Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the Abyei Special Administrative District.
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5509.html

Outbreak Notice: Rabies in Bali, Indonesia - June 20 (CDC)

As of June 2011, over 100 deaths caused by rabies have been reported in Bali. Human and animal rabies cases have been confirmed near popular tourist destinations on the southern tip of Bali and throughout the island. CDC advises travelers to the entire island of Bali to take precautions against rabies.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/outbreak-notice/rabies-bali-indonesia2008.htm>

Food, Drug and Device Safety

Investigation Announcement: Multistate Outbreak of Human Salmonella Enteritidis Infections Linked to Alfalfa Sprouts and Spicy Sprouts - June 28 (CDC)

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections linked to alfalfa sprouts and spicy sprouts.

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/sprouts-enteritidis0611/062611/>

Recalls, Market Withdrawals and Safety Alerts – June 28 (FDA)

For information on recent FDA recalls, market recalls, and safety alerts for food, drugs, and medical devices:

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/default.htm>

The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Health Partners Outreach Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. This is a product of the Health Partners Outreach Team's Clinician Communication Section (CCS) who is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact CCS at coca@cdc.gov

The Health Partners Outreach Team offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for Healthcare providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Selective National Assessment Profiles \(SNAPS\)](#) - snapshots of state population data and local-level community profile information.

[Risk Communicator](#) –quarterly online newsletter providing guidance for emergency risk communication strategy.



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